

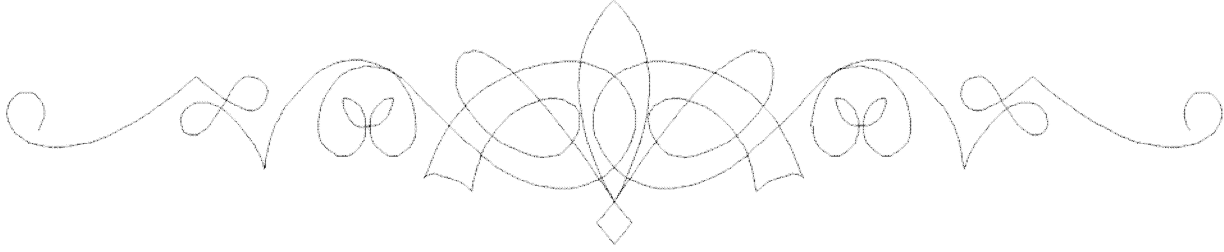


**2016-2017**

**Library Personnel**

**Annual Report**





### ***Library Staff***

Interim Head Librarian – Diane Giese  
Assistant Librarian, Children's Librarian - Joanna Hynd  
Tech Coordinator/Circulation – Chris Lane  
Library Assistant - Blake Donaldson

### ***Library Board of Trustees***

Janet Bosworth, President  
Greg Hamlin, Secretary  
Al Bernier  
Karen Clarke  
William Dashiell  
Linda Kruger  
Patricia Smith  
Harold Willey  
Mimi Zwick

### ***40 Days of Summer Staff***

Melissa Harjula  
Hana Baker  
Toby Mergendahl  
Caitlin Raye  
Susan Schwan

### ***Friends of the Library***

Jeff Carty, President  
Patty McDonald, Treasurer  
Amanda Shortall, Secretary  
Lysbeth Andrews  
Janet Bosworth  
Alice Dashiell  
Shirley Hamlin  
Erika Pfander

### ***Library Volunteers***

Lysbeth Andrews  
Hana Baker  
Louise & Bill Burke  
Jeff Carty  
Karen Clarke  
Alice & William Dashiell  
Marie Finnegan  
Shirley Hamlin  
Sue Howard  
Patty McDonald  
Paula Michaud  
Erika Pfander  
Eileen Skolds  
Chase Young  
Mimi Zwick

# Annual Report 2016-2017

[www.thomaston.lib.me.us](http://www.thomaston.lib.me.us)

(207) 354-2453

[tpl@thomaston.lib.me.us](mailto:tpl@thomaston.lib.me.us)

Monday	11:00 to 7:00
Tuesday	11:00 to 5:00
Wednesday	11:00 to 5:00
Thursday	11:00 to 5:00
Friday	11:00 to 7:00
Saturday	9:00 to 1:00

**Total Library Patrons:** 553  
**Total New Patrons in 2014:** 130  
**Total Circulation:** 27,773  
**Interlibrary loans:** 698  
**Digital Downloads (Audio & E-books):** 970  
**Total Material:** 26,035  
**Total New Material for 2014:** 1384  
**New Adult Books Added:** 707  
**New Children's Books:** 339  
**New Digital Media:** 344

**Jorge Luis Borges — *'I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.'***

**Carl Sagan --*"Books permit us to voyage through time, to tap the wisdom of our ancestors. The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries."***

**Rita Mae Brown — *'When I got [my] library card, that was when my life began.'***

**Henry Ward Beecher — *'A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life.'***

## ***The Changing Face of Libraries***

Many people visit Thomaston Public Library each week because it is their community living room, a place they can count on finding welcoming faces, neighbors and friends, comfortable couches and chairs, stimulating resources, soft rugs, soft music, an abundance of green, leafy plants, and comfortable heat or nice cool air, depending upon the season. Today libraries are fun, relaxing, sociable places to be. We're not as quiet as we used to be – but we do have quiet areas if you need to study or take a test.

Although supplying the public with access to great books and movies is still a major part of what libraries are all about, like everything, libraries change with the times. More and more, libraries are becoming multi-purpose community hubs.

This year we have seen ever popular Friday night movies draw in discriminating film buffs. Community members visit the library to meet with non- or early- English speaking neighbors acting as their conversation partners. Children visit to find their favorite books or to listen to a story and share in a craft project. Patrons join friends at our Communi-TEA catching up on the happenings while enjoying a cup of tea and some savories and sweets. Families join us for special events like our marvelous visit from the Chewonki Foundation replete with live owls. Book clubs provide stimulating conversations and friendships. Knitters work on projects with like-minded crafters. Writers gather to share their work and discuss elements of style and content. Gaggles of children run around the grounds and enjoy 40 Days of Summer.

Changes happen. Early in January we said goodbye to Joanna Hynd and applaud her many years of love and hard work helping to support our mission. We look to new staff, new energy and new experiences.

## ***What Thomaston Public Library Has to Offer You:***

- A plethora of print books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, newspapers
- Readers' advisory - name your interests and we'll help you find the right book.
- Kindle eReaders available to be borrowed, containing a myriad of titles to enjoy
- Resource sharing (access to thousands of downloadable books, a variety of online databases, and, via TPL's interlibrary loan service, library collections across the nation)
- Eight computers available for patrons and community members to use
- Printing, faxing, scanning, copying
- Cultural events
- Monthly displays
- A full range of children's services including a Toddler and Children's Story Hour, daily school-break events, and a healthy food-and-fresh-air summer reading program
- Reference services
- A meeting room for tutoring, CSC classes, Job Corps meetings, counseling sessions, teacher work sessions, organizational meetings, etc.
- Book Clubs including our monthly IGBC book club and the Let's Talk About It book group sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council
- Exciting Friday night movies
- Free passes to the Farnsworth Art Museum and the Owls Head Transportation Museum

**Three Rooms Loaded with Books** – Our library comprises three large rooms: the Main Library with circulation desk upstairs, our Children's Room and a downstairs area filled with fiction, non-fiction, biography and classics.

Upstairs in the Main room we house our newest fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, large print, audiobooks and Maine collection of fiction, nonfiction and reference collections. Magazines and newspapers are available as are our public computers and color printer usable for copies, fax, and scanning. Our display case offers community talents: paintings, a vast model train village, intricate woodworking, clever knitting projects. Each month we have a themed table offering books and digital media celebrating holidays, Black history month, poetry, women's history, March basketball madness. Oversized chairs beckon and classical music soothes.

The Children's Room, often a hive of activity, offers shelves filled with new board, picture, easy reader and chapter books for children. We have lots of chapter books for young adults and a growing collection of graphic novels. There are many well-used, well-loved classics and new award winning books for different reading levels.

Looking for quiet? Downstairs there are carrels, a small meeting room and a large array of fiction, non-fiction, biography and classics a peaceful space.

Our staff offers reference and research assistance, readers' advisory services, computer and other technology troubleshooting, and help for special-needs patrons. We present or host a variety of programs during the year.

**Good Books & DVDs** – The library houses over 27,000 items, with about a third of those items for children. The library regularly purchases large-print books, books on CD, popular and classic films and TV series, literary and best-selling fiction and nonfiction, award-winning children's literature, graphic novels, and books about Maine and by Maine authors. We always encourage readers' suggestions as well.

**Ebooks, Audiobooks, and Kindles** – In addition to borrowing from our audiobook collection, patrons may download audiobooks and eBooks directly through our website. We offer Kindle eReaders for check-out as well, each Kindle is pre-loaded with a selection of books that includes the Inter-Generational Book Club's line-up for 2014, 2015 and 2016, along with titles by Maine authors, the complete works of Nathaniel Philbrick, and a number of literary classics.

**Public Computers and Wi-fi** – Wireless internet was recently upgraded and is available on both floors and on our eight computers for public use, all of which are online and can print in color and B&W. Each computer offers either the Libre Office or Microsoft Office suite of software programs. All public library computers have access to Ancestry.com as well as many other digital databases provided from the Maine State Library.

**A Regularly Updated Website/Social Media** – Library news can be found on our recently redesigned website, [www.thomaston.lib.me.us](http://www.thomaston.lib.me.us), which is frequently updated. A form on the Catalog & ILL page allows you to request materials through interlibrary loan, a free service of the library. On the Home, Facebook, and Book Clubs pages, we publicize all upcoming events for adults and children. The website houses our catalog and permanent information about the library's history and also serves as a dynamic community newsletter. In addition the Library has expanded our Social media outreach through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## **2016 Programs:**

**Programming:** In August, we hosted a Poetry and Prose evening featuring alluring poems by Martha Webster, a humorous and tender prose reading by Chris Fahy, and a compelling non-fiction read by Jane Brox in the main library room. Brox filled in for Debra Sparks who could not attend. Our audience included Martha Rhodes, publisher of Four Way Books, who helped organize the annual event.

We presented a program by Jesse Watson on Midcoast Permaculture in May. A fascinating look on how to plant successful gardens with an eye to what is the surrounding horticulture.

John Ford and Mark Nickerson regaled us with stories about being “old cops”. One a former game warden and the other a state trooper are popular local authors and raconteurs.

Tim Caverly shared his Allagash Tails with a group in the fall, stories of the Maine woods and adventures in the Allagash wilderness waterway.

We began hosting monthly Communi-TEAs held on the third Friday of each month. An opportunity to gather and gossip with neighbors and friends, it has become a popular event complete with some great company, food and tea. There is generally a designated option to donate something to the food pantry each month as well.

**40 Days of Summer Program:** During the summer of 2016 the TPL again hosted the 40 Days of Summer Program funded outside of the library budget by grants, generous donations of money and in-kind supplies and sponsorship from community organizations and churches. The program engaged a staff headed up by Missy Harjula that was kept busy by the great children who attended. A number of talented community members also donated their time to present compelling programming for the children. Because Thomaston qualifies as a community with over 50% of their children receiving either free or reduced meals when school is in session, 40 Days was able to receive free Federal summer food. This was enhanced by healthy snacks and some produce from local farmers and grocery stores.

We fed, read-to, and entertained attending children five days a week for forty days. The program featured events and activities galore, including a program from the Chewonki Foundation, hula hooping with Beth Heidemann, a picnic at the cemetery after doing some grave rubbing, lots of STEM and STREAM experiments and castle-building extravaganza to name a few. Children, and their parents, were invited to participate for a day, a week, or all eight weeks.

**Chewonki Foundation:** Through the generosity of a grant received from the Maine State Library with funds donated on citizen’s tax forms we were able to have a visit from Chewonki in January 2017. Owls were the theme and we expected 50-80 people. We stopped counting at 225! It was a great event and Emma from Chewonki kept her audience rapt and entertained and, of course, the owls were adorable.

## **Great Ongoing Programs in 2016-17:**

### **Friday Night Film Series:**

Film guru Erika Pfander and The Friends of the Thomaston Public Library continued their eclectic mix of classic, foreign, and award-winning films each Friday evening in Room 200 of the Academy building.

**Hallway Books:**

The Friends of the Library maintain a used bookstore in the corridors of the library, where they sell used paperback and hardcover books, audio books, movies, and more. A great effort has been made to sort the books so browsing and finding that perfect read is easy. The bookstore is open during all of the library's open hours. All books and materials can be purchased for a nominal cost and proceeds go to support library programs and supplies.

**Story Hours:**

The library hosts a weekly Thursday Family Story and Craft Hour all year long with a few special Saturday events. Story Hours take place at 11 AM.

**Intergenerational Book Club:**

The IGBC meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss a book all participants have read. Among last year's selections were works of fiction: *A Man Called Ove* by Frederik Backman, *Euphoria* by Lily King, *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova; non-fiction: *Survival Lessons* by Alice Hoffman, *Tibetan Peach Pie* by Tom Robbins

**Let's Talk About It**

A grant from the Maine Humanities Council has help to support a book group focusing on the subject of autobiography. Facilitated by local author and writing coach, Lee Heffner, the group meets monthly and has discussed books like *In My Mother's House* by Kim Chernin, *The Duke of Deception* by Geoffrey Wolff and *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood* by Mary McCarthy

**Qi Gong:**

The library continues to sponsor Tim English's weekly Qi Gong classes held on Saturday mornings in the Thomaston Academy building's gym. Qi Gong, a Chinese practice, involves a combination of slow rhythmic movement and breathing that provides the dual benefits of exercise and meditation.

***School Break Events***

During winter-break week, we offered daily events for children including a program by Susan Beebe, local artist on animal paper dolls, a drumming program by Tom Ulichny of the Midcoast Music Academy, coding one's name and Lego car races.

**Community Displays Program:**

The Community Displays Program provides display space in the library for any person to sign up and use and has brought several artists to the library to display their work.

### ***Grants, Awards, Donations, and Contributions:***

The library is extremely grateful to all the following entities and individuals for their generous contributions and gifts to the library over the past year:

#### **Friends of the Thomaston Public Library 2015 Contributions from the Ruby Morrison Bequest**

We are most fortunate to have the unflagging generosity of the Friends of the Thomaston Public Library. The library received over \$12,000 from them to support its operating budget as well as monies to enhance the scope of community offerings including our Hallway Bookstore, Friday night movies, and other expenses not covered by the regular budget.

#### **40 Days of Summer Donations/Grants:**

Bangor Savings Bank grant of \$2500

St John the Baptist Church in Thomaston: \$800

Rockland Kiwanis Club donation: \$500

Agnes Lindsay Trust: \$1500

Patrisha McLean donation: \$5000

Karen and Dan Clarke donation: \$150.00

American Legion Post 1 in Rockland, various committees: \$250

Many community members also donated money, time, in-kind support to the program which made the third year of this activities and lunch program successful

Shout out to our Police Department, Fire Department, Peggy McCrea, Nancy Wood, Chris Dorman, William Dashiell, Geri Vistein, Daryl Hahn, Patty McDonald, Al Bernier, Bangor Savings Bank and Beth Heidimann.

***The Rudman Grant*** was awarded to the library and will allow us to add lots of titles focusing on Maine authors (both for adults and children) and award winners, large-print books and other books to fill out series.

***The Place Grant*** was awarded to TPL as one of the public libraries chosen to advance community engagement in environmental literacy through climate change discussions. It consists of professional development aiming to create a public program series that would develop strategies for the reality of climate change and severe weather events. We are paired with a NOAA weather person in Gray Maine.

***The Maine Public Library Fund*** grant was awarded to support a TPL family program series. Revenues for this grant comes from Maine citizens making voluntary contributions when they file their Maine State Income Tax returns. Our first program supported by this grant was the Chewonki Foundation "Owls in Maine" presentation that was very well received.

We appreciate the efforts of David, Gigi and Peter Hynd of Play' Possum for their music at numerous events, to Sue Howard for the many hours and skill she donated to create eye-catching graphic design for our events.



Finally, and as always, the library extends gratitude to all our patrons, supporters, Friends, board members, and volunteers, who have given untold hours to the library over the past year, doing everything from cleaning, painting, decorating, and baking through running events and arranging displays to culling, shelving, setting up book sales, and keeping our plants vibrant and healthy. We extend a warm Thank You! To every one of you as well as to everyone who responded to The Friends of the Thomaston Public Library's Annual Appeal. You are the “community” in our community living room!